

## STAFF REPORT

### CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session MEETING DATE: September 2, 2025

**FROM:** Mike Null, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** City Council approval on First Reading of Ordinance O-15-2025 authorizing water rate

changes for Fiscal Year 2026. Mike Null

#### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2023 / early 2024 city staff in collaboration with the city's consultant, Mittauer & Associates (now CPH), conducted a review of the capital improvement program (CIP) and operating expenses for the next ten years in the water, wastewater and reclaimed water funds. The review included depreciation of assets, projected increases in operating costs, infrastructure improvements for regulatory compliance and population growth, and financing options for capital projects. The result was an updated rate study which was reviewed by the council in January of 2024.

Since council review, we have received the FY23 and FY24 auditor's reports. Similar to the 2023 electric rate study, this study was based on FY23 unaudited numbers. As staff stated in the electric rate study, the FY23 audit revealed discrepancies from the unaudited numbers. Additionally, as explained at the July 15 City Council Meeting, there are several potential large projects that affect all three rates, but the legislative requirements and potential funding sources and partnerships make that project list very fluid. As a result, the rate study for water, wastewater and reclaimed water needs to be updated. That will occur in the coming months.

In the meantime, staff has worked with the finance department to incorporate the results of the FY23 and FY24 auditor's report / findings as well as lessons learned from the electric rate study to develop the FY26 proposed budget and to further refine the rate proposals for FY26. The immediate focus is to balance the existing rate study with known changes and proposed revenues and expenditures in FY26.

### WATER:

The rate study called for a 20% increase for FY26 and 3% for FY27 and this is what we have previously announced publicly. However, staff is only proposing a 12% increase for FY26. This 12% will cover the proposed budgetary needs for the FY26 budget. This will also spread the cost over two years as well as provide staff time to update the study prior to proposing any additional increases. Proposed changes to City Code are as follows:

Sec. 90-253. Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for water service furnished by the water system of the city, referred to as a water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the water system, a water charge according to the following schedule:

### Base Charges for all water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
3/4"	\$16.60 <u>\$18.59</u>
1"	\$ <del>24.65</del> \$27.61
1-½"	\$35.09 <u>\$39.30</u>
2"	\$48.55 <u>\$54.38</u>
3"	\$ <del>66.38</del> \$74.35
4"	\$ <del>265.51</del> <u>\$297.37</u>
6"	\$489.60 <u>\$548.35</u>
8"	\$ <del>697.07</del> _\$780.72
10"	\$ <del>912.83</del> \$1,022.37
* Base charge does not	include any usage.

base charge does not include any usag	_

Residential Potable	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<3,000 Gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$0.86</del> <u>\$0.96</u>	\$ <del>2.82</del> \$3.16	<del>\$2.89</del> \$3.24	<del>\$2.99</del> \$3.35	\$3.07 \$3.44
Residential Irrigation	Monthly Cha	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use			
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.89</del> \$3.24	\$ <del>2.99</del> \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58	
Commercial Potable	Monthly Cha	rge per 1,000 Gallon	of use		
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.82</del> \$3.16	\$ <del>2.89</del> \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$ <del>3.07</del> \$3.44	
Commercial Irrigation	Monthly Cha	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use			
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$2.89</del> \$3.24	\$ <del>2.99</del> \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58	

- (b) Water utility users outside the city limits. All water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill*. The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) Bulk water rates. Bulk or wholesale water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
- (g) Commercial as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

12% increase in the Water Rates

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve First Reading of Ordinance O-15-2025 authorizing water rate changes for Fiscal Year 2026 and set September 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM as the second and final reading.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 0-15-2025**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 UTILITIES, ARTICLE III - WATER SERVICE, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-253 ENTITLED "WATER USAGE AND MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS,** On August 5, 2025, the City Council authorized the notice of a proposed Water Rate Increase; and

**WHEREAS**, public notices have been sent to all utility customers in accordance with FSS Chapter 180.136.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** City Code Section 90-253, entitled "Water usage and monthly minimum charges," which establishes water rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 16, 2025:

Sec. 90-253. Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for water service furnished by the water system of the city, referred to as a water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the water system, a water charge according to the following schedule:

Base Charges for all water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
3/4"	\$16.60 <u>\$18.59</u>
1"	<u>\$24.65</u> <u>\$27.61</u>
1-1/2"	\$35.09 <u>\$39.30</u>
2"	\$48.55 <u>\$54.38</u>
3"	<del>\$66.38</del> <u>\$74.35</u>
4"	\$ <del>265.51</del> <u>\$297.37</u>

6"	\$489.60_\$548.35	
8"	\$ <del>697.07</del> _\$780.72	
10"	<u>\$912.83</u> <u>\$1,022.37</u>	
* Base charge does not include any usage.		

Residential Potable	Monthly Ch	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use			
Block Size	<3,000 Gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.86 \$0.96	\$2.82 \$3.16	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.07 \$3.44
Residential Irrigation	<b>Monthly Ch</b>	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use			
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	541/		\$4.98 \$5.58		
Commercial Potable	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$2.82 \$3.16	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.07 \$3.44	
Commercial Irrigation	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58	

- (b) Water utility users outside the city limits. All water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) Maximum monthly bill. There shall be no maximum charge per month.

- (e) *Minimum monthly bill*. The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) Bulk water rates. Bulk or wholesale water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
- (g) Commercial as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary water rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.
- **Section 2.** <u>CODIFICATION.</u> It is the intention of the City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Green Cove Springs as amended; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section" or other appropriate word.
- **Section 3. REPEALER.** Any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- **Section 4. SEVERABILITY.** The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.
- **Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Daniel M Johnson, Mayo	or	

Ordinance No. O-15-2025 Page 4 of 4

ATTEST:	
Erin West, City Clerk	
PASSED ON SECOND AND	FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE 5, FLORIDA, THIS 16 <sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.
	CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA
	Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor
ATTEST:	
Erin West, City Clerk	
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney	



# Notice to all Billing Customers of the

### City of Green Cove Springs Water and Wastewater Utilities

Pursuant to Section 180.136, Florida Statutes

The City of Green Cove Springs City Council will consider rate increases to its Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water rates and charges at public hearings to be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, and Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance is not required; however, utility customers will have an opportunity to comment on these matters at that time.

### PROPOSED WATER RATES (12% Increase)

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay a monthly base charge for each metered point of connection to the City's water system based upon the water meter size associated with each connection point.

3/4"	\$18.59	per month	3" \$74.35	per month
1"	\$27.61	per month	4" \$297.37	per month
1 1/2"	\$39.30	per month	6" \$548.35	per month
2"	\$54.38	per month	8" \$780.72	per month
		·	10" \$1.022.37	per month

Water Consumption Charge(s): Each customer must pay for water consumed through each connection point based upon service type:

Residential Potable Service 0-3,000 gallons 3,001-10,000 gallons	\$0.96 per 1,000 gallons \$3.16 per 1,000 gallons	Commercial Potable Service 0-10,000 gallons 10,001-15,000	\$3.16 per 1,000 gallons \$3.24 per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.24 per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$3.35 per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$3.35 per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and over	\$3.44 per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$3.44 per 1,000 gallons		
Residential Irrigation Service		Commercial Irrigation Ser	
0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24 per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24 per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.35 per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000	\$3.35 per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$4.26 per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$4.26 per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$5.58 per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and over	\$5.58 per 1,000 gallons

### **PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES (5% Increase)**

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay for wastewater discharged into the City's wastewater collection system based upon customer class:

9, 1	your per monen	3	Y233.10	per monen	
1"	\$69.96 per month	4"	\$686.81	per month	
1 1/2"	\$137.35 per month	6"	\$1,295.84	per month	
2"	\$196.94 per month	8"	\$2,177.01	per month	
		10"	\$3,109.98	per month	
Residential Service		Commercial Service			
0-3,000 gallons	\$0.75 per 1,000 gallons	0-3,000 gallons	\$0.75	per 1,000 gallons	
3,001-10,000 gallons	\$7.18 per 1,000 gallons	3,001-10,000	\$7.18	per 1,000 gallons	
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$7.40 per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000	\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons	
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$7.64 per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$7.64	per 1,000 gallons	
20,001 gallons and over	\$7.92 per 1,000 gallons	20,001-50,000	\$7.92	per 1,000 gallons	
Residential wastewater shall not exce	ed \$200.00 per month	50.001 gallons and over	\$8.16	per 1.000 gallons	

The Reclaimed Water Fund (Utility) and proposed rates were established in 2016. As the city has not had a fully functional **residential** reclaimed water system, there has been no update or review of the rates since 2016. Beginning in early 2025, upon completion of improvements to the Harbor Road Water Reclamation Facility, the city will begin supplying reclaimed water to customers that have reclaimed water infrastructure in their development.

The proposed reclaimed water rates mirror the potable water irrigation rates.

3/4"

\$39.49 per month

### PROPOSED RECLAIMED WATER RATES (12% Increase)

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay a monthly base charge for each metered point of connection to the City's water system based upon the water meter size associated with each connection point.

3/4"	\$18.59	per month	3" \$74.35	per month
1"	\$27.61	per month	4" \$297.37	per month
1 1/2"	\$39.30	per month	6" \$548.35	per month
2"	\$54.38	per month	8" \$780.72	per month
			10" \$1,022.37	per month

Water Consumption Charge(s): Each customer must pay for water consumed through each connection point based upon service type:

Residential Irrigation Service			Commercial	Irrigation Service	
0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$5.58	per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and	over \$5.58	per 1,000 gallons

All water, wastewater, and reclaimed water utility users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.

\$259.18 per month



## STAFF REPORT

### CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session MEETING DATE: September 2, 2025

**FROM:** Mike Null, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: City Council approval on First Reading of Ordinance O-16-2025 authorizing wastewater

rate changes for Fiscal Year 2026.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2023 / early 2024 city staff in collaboration with the city's consultant, Mittauer & Associates (now CPH), conducted a review of the capital improvement program (CIP) and operating expenses for the next ten years in the water, wastewater and reclaimed water funds. The review included depreciation of assets, projected increases in operating costs, infrastructure improvements for regulatory compliance and population growth, and financing options for capital projects. The result was an updated rate study which was reviewed by the council in January of 2024.

Since council review, we have received the FY23 and FY24 auditor's reports. Similar to the 2023 electric rate study, this study was based on FY23 unaudited numbers. As staff stated in the electric rate study, the FY23 audit revealed discrepancies from the unaudited numbers. Additionally, as explained at the July 15 City Council Meeting, there are several potential large projects that affect all three rates, but the legislative requirements and potential funding sources and partnerships make that project list very fluid. As a result, the rate study for water, wastewater and reclaimed water needs to be updated. That will occur in the coming months.

In the meantime, staff has worked with the finance department to incorporate the results of the FY23 and FY24 auditor's report / findings as well as lessons learned from the electric rate study to develop the FY26 proposed budget and to further refine the rate proposals for FY26. The immediate focus is to balance the existing rate study with known changes and proposed revenues and expenditures in FY26.

### **WASTEWATER:**

The rate study called for a 3% increase for FY26. Staff had anticipated a 5% proposed increase. As the proposed FY26 budget was completed, it showed a need for 19% to meet the budgetary needs of the department. Given the uncertainty of the rate study based on unaudited FY23 numbers and the uncertainty of future projects and debt service, staff is not comfortable recommending a 19% rate increase. We have stated publicly that we anticipate a 5% increase, so that is the recommendation. To accomplish this, we removed \$500,000 in collection system improvements from the proposed FY26 budget as follows:

- \$200,000 in gravity sewer line and sewer manhole re-lining
- \$300,000 in lift station rehabs.

Proposed changes to the City Code are as follows:

City Code Section 90-376, entitled "Wastewater Rates" which establishes wastewater rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 16, 2025:

Sec. 90-376. – Wastewater rates.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for wastewater service furnished by the wastewater system of the city, referred to as a "wastewater charge," shall be based upon the quantity of potable water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land which is connected with or uses the wastewater system shall pay for the use of, and for the services and facilities furnished by the wastewater system, a wastewater charge according to the following schedule.

Base charges for all wastewater accounts are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*			
3/4"	<del>\$37.61</del> <u>\$39.49</u>			
1"	<del>\$66.63</del> <u>\$69.96</u>			
1-½"	<del>\$130.81</del> <u>\$137.35</u>			
2"	<del>\$187.56</del> <u>\$196.94</u>			
3"	<del>\$246.8</del> 4 <u>\$259.18</u>			
4"	<del>\$654.10</del> <u>\$686.81</u>			
6"	<del>\$1,234.13</del> <u>\$1,295.84</u>			
8"	\$ <del>2,073.3</del> 4 <u>\$2,177.01</u>			
10"	\$ <del>2,961.89</del> \$3,109.98			
* Base charge does not include any usage.				

- (b) Wastewater utility users outside the city limits. All wastewater utility users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill*. The maximum monthly residential bill shall be \$200.00. There shall be no maximum commercial charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill*. The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) Bulk wastewater rates. Bulk or wholesale wastewater rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing wastewater service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.

Residential	Monthly Ch	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use							
Block Size	<3,000 gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons				
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	<del>\$0.71</del> <u>\$0.75</u>	<del>\$6.84</del> \$7.18	<del>\$7.05</del> <u>\$7.40</u>	<del>\$7.28</del> <u>\$7.64</u>	<del>\$7.54</del> <u>\$7.92</u>				
Commercial	Monthly Ch	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use							
Block Size	<3,000 gallons	3,001—10,000 gallons	10,001—15,000 gallons	15,001—20,000 gallons	20,001—50,000 gallons	>50,00 gallon			
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.71 \$0.75	<del>\$6.84</del> <u>\$7.18</u>	<del>\$7.05</del> <u>\$7.40</u>	<del>\$7.28</del> <u>\$7.64</u>	<del>\$7.54</del> <u>\$7.92</u>		. <del>77</del> .16		

- (g) Commercial as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary wastewater rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

### FISCAL IMPACT

5% increase in the Wastewater Rates

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve First Reading of Ordinance O-16-2025 authorizing wastewater rate changes for Fiscal Year 2026 and set September 16, 2025 at 6:00PM as the second and final reading.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 0-16-2025**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING WASTEWATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 - UTILITIES, ARTICLE IV - SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-376 ENTITLED "WASTEWATER RATES"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS,** On August 5, 2025 the City Council authorized the notice of a proposed Wastewater Rate Increase; and

**WHEREAS**, public notices have been sent to all utility customers in accordance with FSS Chapter 180.136.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

City Code Section 90-376, entitled "Wastewater Rates" which establishes wastewater rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 16, 2025:

Sec. 90-376. – Wastewater rates.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for wastewater service furnished by the wastewater system of the city, referred to as a "wastewater charge," shall be based upon the quantity of potable water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land which is connected with or uses the wastewater system shall pay for the use of, and for the services and facilities furnished by the wastewater system, a wastewater charge according to the following schedule.

Base charges for all wastewater accounts are as follows:

Meter Size Monthly Base Charge*			
3/4"	\$ <del>37.61</del> \$ <u>39.49</u>		
1"	<del>\$66.63</del> <u>\$69.96</u>		
1-1/2"	\$130.81 <u>\$137.35</u>		
2"	<del>\$187.56</del> <u>\$196.94</u>		
3"	\$246.84 <u>\$259.18</u>		

4"	<del>\$654.10</del> <u>\$686.81</u>				
6"	\$1,234.13 <u>\$1,295.84</u>				
8"	\$2,073.34 <u>\$2,177.01</u>				
10"	\$ <del>2,961.89</del> \$3,109.98				
* Base charge does not include any usage.					

- (b) Wastewater utility users outside the city limits. All wastewater utility users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill*. The maximum monthly residential bill shall be \$200.00. There shall be no maximum commercial charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill.* The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) Bulk wastewater rates. Bulk or wholesale wastewater rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing wastewater service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.

Residential	Monthly (	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use						
Block Size	<3,000 gallons	3,001— 10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons			
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.71 \$0.75	\$6.84 \$7.18	\$7.05 \$7.40	\$7.28 \$7.64	\$7.54 \$7.92			
Commercial	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use							
Block Size	<3,000 gallons	3,001— 10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	20,001— 50,000 gallons	>50,001 gallons		
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$0.71 \$0.75	\$6.84 \$7.18	\$7.05 \$7.40	\$7.28 \$7.64	\$7.54 \$7.92	\$7.77 \$8.16		

(g) Commercial as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.

- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary wastewater rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

	Daniel M Johnson, Mayor
ATTEST:	
Erin West, City Clerk	
	AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE INGS, FLORIDA, THIS 16 <sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.
	CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA
	Daniel M Johnson, Mayor
ATTEST:	
Enin West City Cloub	
Erin West, City Clerk  APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
L. J. Arnold, III. City Attorney	



# Notice to all Billing Customers

### City of Green Cove Springs Water and Wastewater Utilities

Pursuant to Section 180.136, Florida Statutes

The City of Green Cove Springs City Council will consider rate increases to its Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water rates and charges at public hearings to be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, and Tuesday, September 16, 2025. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers in City Hall, located at 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance is not required; however, utility customers will have an opportunity to comment on these matters at that time.

### PROPOSED WATER RATES (12% Increase)

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay a monthly base charge for each metered point of connection to the City's water system based upon the water meter size associated with each connection point.

3/4"	\$18.59	per month	3" \$74.35	per month
1"	\$27.61	per month	4" \$297.37	per month
1 1/2"	\$39.30	per month	6" \$548.35	per month
2"	\$54.38	per month	8" \$780.72	per month
			10" \$1,022.37	per month

Water Consumption Charge(s): Each customer must pay for water consumed through each connection point based upon service type:

Residential Potable Service			Commercial Potable	Service		
0-3,000 gallons	\$0.96	per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons		\$3.16	per 1,000 gallons
3,001-10,000 gallons	\$3.16	per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000		\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000		\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and	over	\$3.44	per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$3.44	per 1,000 gallons				
Residential Irrigation Service			Commercial	Irrigation Servi	ice	
0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons		\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000		\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000		\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$5.58	per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and	over	\$5.58	per 1,000 gallons

### **PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES (5% Increase)**

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay for wastewater discharged into the City's wastewater collection system based upon customer class:

3/4" 1" 1 1/2" 2"	\$39.49 per month \$69.96 per month \$137.35 per month \$196.94 per month	3" 4" 6" 8" 10"	\$259.18 \$686.81 \$1,295.84 \$2,177.01 \$3,109.98	per month per month per month per month
Residential Service		Commercial Service		
0-3,000 gallons	\$0.75 per 1,000 gallons	0-3,000 gallons	\$0.75	per 1,000 gallons
3,001-10,000 gallons	\$7.18 per 1,000 gallons	3,001-10,000	\$7.18	per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$7.40 per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000	\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$7.64 per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$7.64	per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$7.92 per 1,000 gallons	20,001-50,000	\$7.92	per 1,000 gallons
Residential wastewater shall not exce	ed \$200.00 per month	50,001 gallons and over	\$8.16	per 1,000 gallons

The Reclaimed Water Fund (Utility) and proposed rates were established in 2016. As the city has not had a fully functional residential reclaimed water system, there has been no update or review of the rates since 2016. Beginning in early 2025, upon completion of improvements to the Harbor Road Water Reclamation Facility, the city will begin supplying reclaimed water to customers that have reclaimed water infrastructure in their development.

The proposed reclaimed water rates mirror the potable water irrigation rates.

### PROPOSED RECLAIMED WATER RATES (12% Increase)

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay a monthly base charge for each metered point of connection to the City's water system based upon the water meter size associated with each connection point.

3/4"	\$18.59	per month	3" \$74.35	per month
1"	\$27.61	per month	4" \$297.37	per month
1 1/2"	\$39.30	per month	6" \$548.35	per month
2"	\$54.38	per month	8" \$780.72	per month
			10" \$1,022.37	per month

Water Consumption Charge(s): Each customer must pay for water consumed through each connection point based upon service type:

Residential Irrigation Service			Commercial	Irrigation Service	
0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
10,001-15,000 gallons	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000	\$3.35	per 1,000 gallons
15,001-20,000 gallons	\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons	15,001-20,000	\$4.26	per 1,000 gallons
20,001 gallons and over	\$5.58	per 1,000 gallons	20,001 gallons and	over \$5.58	per 1,000 gallons

All water, wastewater, and reclaimed water utility users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.



## STAFF REPORT

### CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session MEETING DATE: September 2, 2025

**FROM:** Mike Null, Assistant City Manager

**SUBJECT:** City Council approval on First Reading of Ordinance O-17-2025 authorizing

reclaimed water (irrigation) rate changes for Fiscal Year 2026. Mike Null

### **BACKGROUND**

In late 2023 / early 2024 city staff in collaboration with the city's consultant, Mittauer & Associates (now CPH), conducted a review of the capital improvement program (CIP) and operating expenses for the next ten years in the water, wastewater and reclaimed water funds. The review included depreciation of assets, projected increases in operating costs, infrastructure improvements for regulatory compliance and population growth, and financing options for capital projects. The result was an updated rate study which was reviewed by the council in January of 2024.

Since council review, we have received the FY23 and FY24 auditor's reports. Similar to the 2023 electric rate study, this study was based on FY23 unaudited numbers. As staff stated in the electric rate study, the FY23 audit revealed discrepancies from the unaudited numbers. Additionally, as explained at the July 15 City Council Meeting, there are several potential large projects that affect all three rates, but the legislative requirements and potential funding sources and partnerships make that project list very fluid. As a result, the rate study for water, wastewater and reclaimed water needs to be updated. That will occur in the coming months.

In the meantime, staff has worked with the finance department to incorporate the results of the FY23 and FY24 auditor's report / findings as well as lessons learned from the electric rate study to develop the FY26 proposed budget and to further refine the rate proposals for FY26. The immediate focus is to balance the existing rate study with known changes and proposed revenues and expenditures in FY26.

### **RECLAIMED WATER:**

The City will be bringing reclaimed water customers on in the next couple of months. As such, we do not have historical data to base rates on so reclaimed water rates are being proposed the same as potable water irrigation rates. Changes to City Code are proposed as follows:

Sec. 90-575. Reclaimed Water usage and monthly minimum charges.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for reclaimed water service furnished by the reclaimed water system of the city, referred to as a reclaimed water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of reclaimed water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the reclaimed water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the reclaimed water system, a reclaimed water charge according to the following schedule:

Base Charges for all reclaimed water meters are as follows:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
3/4"	\$ <del>16.60</del> \$18.59
1"	\$ <del>24.65</del> \$27.61
1-1/2"	\$ <del>35.09</del> \$39.30
2"	\$ <del>48.55</del> \$54.38
3"	\$ <del>66.38</del> \$74.35
4"	\$ <del>265.51</del> \$297.37
6"	\$489.60 <u>\$548.35</u>
8"	\$ <del>697.07</del> \$780.72
10"	\$ <del>912.83</del> \$1,022.37
* Base charge does not include any usage.	

Residential Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use Irrigation					
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$ <del>2.89</del> \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58	
Commercial Irrigation	Monthly Char	ge per 1,000 Gallon (	of use		
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons	
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58	

- (b) Reclaimed water utility users outside the city limits. All reclaimed water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill*. The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's potable water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.

- (f) Bulk reclaimed water rates. Bulk or wholesale reclaimed water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing reclaimed water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
- (g) Commercial as defined within this section, includes all uses other than residential.
- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary reclaimed water rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.

### FISCAL IMPACT

Adjustment in the Reclaimed Water Fund Operating Budget to match Potable Water Irrigation. There are currently no revenues from reclaimed water.

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve First Reading of Ordinance O-17-2025 authorizing reclaimed water rate changes for Fiscal Year 2026 and set September 16, 2025 at 6:00PM as the second and final reading.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 0-17-2025**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MODIFYING RECLAIMED WATER RATES BY AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 90 UTILITIES, ARTICLE IX – RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEM, DIVISION 3 - RATES AND CHARGES, SECTION 90-575 ENTITLED "WATER USAGE AND MONTHLY MINIMUM CHARGES"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS,** On August 5, 2025, the City Council authorized the notice of a proposed Irrigation Rate Increase; and

**WHEREAS**, public notices have been sent to all utility customers in accordance with FSS Chapter 180.136.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** City Code Section 90-575, entitled "Reclaimed Water usage and monthly minimum charges," which establishes reclaimed water rates, is hereby amended to read as follows, effective on September 16, 2025:

Sec. 90-575. Reclaimed water usage and monthly minimum charges.

(a) Rates schedule. The rates, fees and charges for reclaimed water service furnished by the reclaimed water system of the city, referred to as a reclaimed water charge, shall be based upon the quantity of reclaimed water, determined by metering, furnished to each user's premises each month. The owner, occupant or tenant of each lot or parcel of land connected with or using the reclaimed water system shall pay for the use of, and for the services furnished by the reclaimed water system, a reclaimed water charge according to the following schedule:

Meter Size	Monthly Base Charge*
3/4"	\$16.60 <u>\$18.59</u>
1"	<u>\$24.65</u> <u>\$27.61</u>
1-1/2"	\$35.09 <u>\$39.30</u>
2"	\$48.55 <u>\$54.38</u>
3"	<del>\$66.38</del> <u>\$74.35</u>

411	1
4"	\$ <del>265.51</del> \$297.37
6"	<del>\$489.60</del> \$548.35
8"	\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
0	\$ <del>697.07</del> \$780.72
10"	<u>\$912.83</u> \$1,022.37
* Paga charga doog not include any usaga	

<sup>\*</sup> Base charge does not include any usage.

Residential Irrigation	Monthly Charge per 1,000 Gallon of use						
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons			
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58			
Commercial Irrigation	Monthly Cha	arge per 1,000 Gal	lon of use				
Block Size	<10,000 gallons	10,001— 15,000 gallons	15,001— 20,000 gallons	>20,001 gallons			
Rate (\$/1,000 gal)	\$2.89 \$3.24	\$2.99 \$3.35	\$3.80 \$4.26	\$4.98 \$5.58			

- (b) Reclaimed water utility users outside the city limits. All reclaimed water users outside the city limits shall pay 125 percent of the equivalent rate charged to those users within the city limits.
- (c) Application of charges. The charges in this section shall apply to all classes of users, including residential and commercial (industrial, institutional, charitable or otherwise), except as otherwise provided in this Code.
- (d) *Maximum monthly bill.* There shall be no maximum charge per month.
- (e) *Minimum monthly bill*. The minimum residential and commercial charge shall be the base charge based on the user's reclaimed water meter size. The base charge does not include any usage.
- (f) Bulk reclaimed water rates. Bulk or wholesale reclaimed water rates shall be calculated to reflect the city's cost of providing reclaimed water service to those entities entering into an agreement with the city. Such rates will be determined on an individual basis by the city.
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Ordinance No. O-17-2025 Page 3 of 4

- (h) Annual rate increase. The City Manager shall issue a written report to the City Council during the annual budget process recommending any necessary reclaimed water rate adjustments.
- (i) *Computation of use.* A consumption of a fraction of any 1,000 gallons shall be the same as using the entire 1,000 gallons.
- **Section 2.** <u>CODIFICATION.</u> It is the intention of the City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Green Cove Springs as amended; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section" or other appropriate word.
- **Section 3. REPEALER.** Any Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- **Section 4. SEVERABILITY.** The various parts, sections and clauses of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby.
- **Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ON THIS 2nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

	Daniel M Johnson, Mayor	
ATTEST:		
Erin West, City Clerk		

# PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THIS $16^{\rm TH}$ DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025. CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

	Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor	
ATTEST:		
Erin West, City Clerk		
Lim west, City Clerk		
APPROVED AS TO FORM:		
L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney	<del></del>	



# Notice to all Billing Customers of the

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Pursuant to Section 180.136, Florida Statutes

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Attendance is not required; however, utility customers will have an opportunity to comment on these matters at that time.

### **PROPOSED WATER RATES (12% Increase)**

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Water Consumption Charge(s): Each customer must pay for water consumed through each connection point based upon service type:

Residential Potable Service			Commercial Potable	Service		
0-3,000 gallons	\$0.96	per 1,000 gallons	0-10,000 gallons		\$3.16	per 1,000 gallons
3,001-10,000 gallons	\$3.16	per 1,000 gallons	10,001-15,000		\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
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Residential Irrigation Service			Commercial	Irrigation Servi	ce	
Residential Irrigation Service 0-10,000 gallons	\$3.24	per 1,000 gallons	Commercial 0-10,000 gallons	Irrigation Servi	<i>ce</i> \$3.24	per 1,000 gallons
3	\$3.24 \$3.35	per 1,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons		Irrigation Servi		per 1,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons
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### **PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES (5% Increase)**

Monthly Base Charge: Each customer must pay for wastewater discharged into the City's wastewater collection system based upon customer class:

3, 4	733.43 pc				7233.10	permonen	
1"	\$69.96 pe	er month		4"	\$686.81	per month	
1 1/2"	\$137.35 pe	er month		6"	\$1,295.84	per month	
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				10"	\$3,109.98	per month	
Residential Service			Commercial Service				
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Residential wastewater shall not exce	ed \$200.00 p	er month	50.001 gallons and ov	er	\$8.16	per 1.000 gallons	

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The proposed reclaimed water rates mirror the potable water irrigation rates.

3/4"

\$39.49 per month

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